

Arizona Writing Standard Performance Level Descriptors Grade 3 Alternate Assessment

Exceeds the Standard – Students with significant cognitive disabilities who score in this level illustrate skills commensurate with typical third grade students meeting standards on the general assessment. Students who perform at this level are able to identify elements of good communications and apply basic rules of capitalization and punctuation. They can express ideas that relate to the topic, create a beginning, middle, and end, with some hint of transition, use some variety of word choice, utilize basic punctuation correctly, and write functional text related to real-world tasks.

Meets the Standard – Students who score in this level and supported through the use of pictures, objects, personal picture/word dictionary, thesaurus, word wall, and word bank, demonstrate an understanding of subject matter as reflected by the writing standard. Students who perform at this level are able to express a main idea, show some awareness of beginning, middle, and end, write simple sentences including functional text, and use capitalization and punctuation to show where sentences begin and end.

Approaches the Standard – Students who score in this level and supported through the use of pictures, objects, personal picture/word dictionary, thesaurus, word wall, and word bank, show partial understanding of the knowledge and application of the skills that are fundamental for proficient work. Students who perform at this level show some understanding of writing conventions by selecting details that go together, organizing information in a logical sequence, write using noun-verb combinations and use punctuation to show where sentences end.

Falls Far Below the Standard – Students who score in this level may have significant gaps and limited knowledge and skills that are necessary to satisfactorily meet the state’s writing standard. Students will usually require a considerable amount of additional instruction and remediation in order to achieve a satisfactory level of understanding.

Students at the “Exceeds the Standard” level generally know the skills required at the “Meets” and “Approaches” levels and are able to:	Students at the “Meets the Standard” level generally know the skills required at the “Approaches” level and are able to:	Students at the “Approaches the Standard” level generally know and are able to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express ideas that relate to the topic and some relevant details that provide support. Create a beginning, middle, and end, with some hint of transition between these. Use some variety of word choice to show some personal voice and an awareness of audience. Write simple sentences and occasionally more complex sentences, with a variety of sentence beginnings. Use capital letters and basic punctuation correctly. Write a variety of functional text providing specific directions or information related to real-world tasks. Address envelopes depicting both the return address and the recipient address. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Express a main idea and purpose somewhat unclearly or not developed completely. Show some awareness of beginning, middle, and end. Use dictionary and thesaurus to choose more interesting words. Write simple sentences that are usually complete. Use capitalization and punctuation to show where sentences begin and end. Write thank you notes, messages, and invitations. Address envelopes to show the return address. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select which ideas are related to the topic, when given a list of ideas. Organize information in logical sequence when given a piece of writing or group of pictures. Use word wall/word bank to select words that convey an intended message. Create noun-verb combinations on a given topic. Use periods and question marks at the end of statements, when given a piece of writing. Complete an invitation, when given a template. Choose from two preprinted return labels, the label that matches the home address.

These descriptors do not include all the skills and knowledge as contained in the Writing Standard.